

COUNCIL READY TO ORDER PARKING METERS FOR CITY

Haggard to Name New 'Authority'

Still intent upon saddling the people of Torrance with unnecessary taxes, the Councilman majority at its next meeting intends to adopt an "urgency" ordinance to install parking meters on the curbs of Torrance streets in the "central traffic district."

Dictator of the idea is Mayor Bob Haggard, the man who is trying to impose a \$9.00 per year garbage collection fee on the householders of Torrance.

The Council also intends to adopt a resolution to "appoint" a parking authority and the resolution states "the mayor is the proper person to appoint the members of such authority." There will be five persons on the "authority."

The funds from the parking meters will be directed to the "parking authority" and they will use it to buy or condemn property, including buildings, to provide off-street parking lots.

Once again, the sole opponent on the Council of the idea is Councilman Nick Drale.

"Too much control is going to one man," Councilman Drale declared.

"The Mayor will have the power of appointing the five-man parking authority, and the parking authority will have the power to buy and sell property at will."

"This is dangerous for the people of Torrance."

"We have the funds to buy property for off-street parking; and the City Council has the power of eminent domain. I do not believe that this power should be delegated to a committee of five men appointed by one man."

"I am against this whole deal, and I ask the people of Torrance to back me up in this opposition."

"Should get vote"

"The whole question should go to a vote of the people, and no doubt it will by referendum if the Council adopts this absurd parking meter-parking authority plan."

City Attorney James Hall has drafted the resolution and ordinance to set up the parking authority and to provide for the parking meters. The parking authority is drafted "pursuant to the Parking Law of 1949," he said.

The "parking authority" would

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TWO JOBS COST CITY \$17,600

The offices of City Manager and City Engineer are costing the taxpayers of the City of Torrance \$17,600 per year for salaries alone against \$5,526 when Gene Jain resigned as City Engineer in 1947.

City Manager George W. Stevens is getting a \$11,000 annual salary.

City Engineer Jacob Joseph, recently hired, is getting \$6800 per year.

When Stevens first was hired, he received \$9000 per year as "city administrative officer" and city engineer. That was January 1, 1948.

He later became city manager under the Charter amendment but continued until June 1 as City Engineer, receiving \$10,000 a year.

He got a raise effective July 1, 1951, to \$11,000 per year.

Prior to the advent of the "city manager" form of government, Jain was engineer and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and Jain shared an "on again off again" arrangement as purchasing agent, a job which paid \$50 per month.

Dexter Hired as Elem. Principal By School Board

Robert R. Dexter, elementary vice-principal, was employed by the Torrance Unified School Board Tuesday night as an elementary school principal at an annual salary of \$5,500, effective September 1, 1951.

Dexter will be assigned to the El Nido and Crenshaw schools if they are completed by the fall, it was reported.

Anguish . . .



REGISTERED . . . on the faces of parents of one of the three boys drowned Monday morning in a Keystone slough near 192nd street and Figueroa avenue is the feeling of anguish when they see their boy dragged into one of the life-guarder's boats. They are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wimberly, Sr. (center), of 13302 Crocker avenue. Surrounding them are relatives and friends. The body of their son, Roy, was the last to be found. It was recovered at 2:35 p.m. Monday afternoon. The tragedy occurred about 10 a.m. —Torrance Press photo by Edith L. Pavin.

\$338,986 In City Coffers As Year Ends

The City of Torrance ended the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$338,986.29, according to figures from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Of this amount, \$132,556.81 was in the general fund.

It is the money in the "fund balance" that Councilman Nick Drale has been urging the city to use to provide a new city dump.

Also, he contends that the money will be sufficient to finance any type of park and recreation program, as well as the off-street parking program.

Mayor Bob Haggard and his three supporters on the Council, Councilmen H. Spelman, W. Blount and E. Karlow, have been seeking a \$9.00 per year garbage fee from householders to finance a \$90,000 per year recreation and park program.

Now, Mayor Haggard and his supporters are seeking to set up a parking meter and parking authority program for Torrance, to raise money to buy real estate for off-street parking.

Here is the way the fund balances stood as of June 30, 1951:

General	\$132,556.81
Traffic Safety	3,798.53
In Lieu Motor Vehicle	61,601.76
Library	20,632.04
County Aid	24,132.95
Streets of Major Imp.	61,789.71
Retirement	28,565.28
Pay Roll Clearing	2,899.21
Airport Improvement Fund	3,010.00
Water System Plan	0.00
Total	\$338,986.29

Three Boys Dead in 2nd Slough Mishap

The drowning of three young boys Monday morning in a Keystone slough at 192nd and Figueroa streets was the second tragedy of its kind to occur within two weeks.

Drowned Monday morning when a raft on which they were playing capsized were Ronald Lee Thomas, 10, 13223 Towne avenue; Ernest Austin, 13, of 13328 Towne avenue, and Roy B. Wimberly, 12, of 13302 Crocker avenue, all Negroes.

Larry Hurst, 9 years, of 21601 Moneta avenue was drowned Monday, July 9, when he fell off a raft while playing in a slough near his home.

Three other lads—including brothers of two of the victims—saved themselves after vainly attempting to rescue their companions in this week's tragedy.

Charles Thomas, 14, said he grabbed his brother Ronald but the younger boy struggled, broke away and sank, Fred Wimberly, 15, made repeated dives in search of his brother, to no avail. Anthony Wynn, 12, of 13303

Towne avenue, was the sixth boy on the raft.

They had climbed on the flimsy cross planks and shoved out into the 100-yard wide slough to fish for crawfish when the raft began disintegrating.

Crowding to one side, the six capsized the craft almost perpendicularly, spilling all into the 10-foot deep water.

Firemen from Dominguez station and volunteers dived into the murky waters for some time in an attempt to recover the bodies, but thick vegetation on the muddy bottom prevented recovery until grappling lines were used.

Inhalator crews worked for more than an hour over each boy to no avail.

A triple funeral service for the three boys will be held this week end at the Conner, Johnson Mortuary of Los Angeles. Exact date had not been set at deadline time.

THE 'YES MEN' HAVE IT! (An Editorial)

New evidence of the desire of the clique running the City Hall to safely tuck under their control the various city commissions is seen in the appointment made to the Civil Service Commission last week.

Specified in the City Ordinance which governs the Civil Service Commission are these words: "The City Council shall appoint a Board . . . of five members . . . each Councilman nominating one member."

The practice of allowing each Councilman to nominate members of the Civil Service Commission and other commissions when his turn arrives has been followed since the Civil Service Ordinance was adopted on May 27, 1941.

That is, it had been followed until Tuesday night, July 10, 1951, when Mayor Bob Haggard refused to permit Councilman Nick Drale to have his privilege and right under the ordinance, of nominating the successor of Vic Benstead who resigned. Benstead had been Drale's nominee originally.

Disregarding this tradition, courtesy and requirement, Mayor Haggard disallowed Councilman Drale's plea that the nomination of this Civil Service Commission was rightfully his, and the famous "four to one" vote prevailed against Drale.

Let us make it clear that we do not criticize the appointment of Charles Schultz Jr. to the Commission. We think that he is well-qualified for the job. We are sure that Mr. Drale feels the same way.

It is not the man in the job we are criticizing. It is the manner in which Mayor Haggard and his three "yes" men are showing discourteous and willful disregard for the minority voice of Councilman Drale that we challenge.

In our opinion, Councilman Drale is doing a far better job than any Councilman we have had in years. The people know that he is representing them; yes the people, not the "vested interests" which the Councilmanic Four so bluntly supports to the utter disregard of the wishes of the people of Torrance who believe in Councilman Drale.

The Drale supporters are growing in numbers daily, and every incident of the sort mentioned above is pouring oil on the fires of discontent with the present city administration and its "backers."

It takes "big men and big minds" to represent the people of a community, district or state.

We foresee for Councilman Drale a long, successful and glorious career.

Swayne Johnson Brings 16 Guests for Weekend

Home last weekend with 16 buddies, was Swayne Johnson, former Torrance police officer. Johnson came here to play his own former baseball club, the Torrance Bluebirds.

The sailors, veterans of the Korean war and crew members of the U. S. S. Dixie, based at San Diego, were the weekend guests of the Torrance Loyal Order of the Moose, according to Governor George Powell.

The Navy visitors were received with "open arms" by the members of the Moose, but the Torrance Bluebirds' baseball team dampened the visit by defeating the sailors, who hold fourth place in the Southern Navy Conference baseball league, in two games last Saturday, 8-6 and 12-10.

The Moose guests and crew members of the U. S. S. Dixie were decorated by the government for their activities in the Korean war, and are distinguished by virtue of their ship's participation in actual combat at Naesong in Korea, a first in naval history for a vessel of its type. Naesong is in the news today as the site of truce talks in Korea.

Pitching for the Navy team last Saturday was Al Williams

of Bremerton, Wash., under contract to the Seattle Rainers of the Pacific Coast league. Also included on the Navy roster were such professional players as

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Gets Action on Slough Peril

Draining of Keystone sloughs and burning of dangerous debris near them, was given as a hope this week to H. J. Blythe, president of the Keystone-Avalon Chamber of Commerce, by Supervisor Raymond Darby.

Investigation of the problem by the County Board of Supervisors was made on request of the Keystone-Avalon group as a result of the recent drowning of four boys in two sloughs.

Drowned Monday of this week in a slough near 129nd and Figueroa was Ronald Lee Thomas, 10, Ernest Austin, 13, and Roy B. Wimberly, 12. Another victim of murky slough waters at Genevieve and Jamison streets was Larry Hurst, 9. Larry was drowned Monday, July 9.

Supervisors thought that by draining water out of the sloughs, much of the remaining water would evaporate, making the water-filled pits more shallow. They also thought that by burning debris, from which the boys constructed the rafts, danger of playing in the sloughs would be lessened.

Merchant Says, 'Torrance Police Best'

High praise was awarded to the Torrance Police Department this week by a Torrance merchant.

Archie Wachs, of the Mayflower Dress Shop commended the alertness of police officers in patrolling the business district. Wachs said that on several occasions he has left the

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BEING 'OCCUPIED' . . . right into his own jail by members of the military government reserve units during practice operations in Torrance last Tuesday is Chief of Police John Stroth (2nd from right). Members of the 'occupation' force shown in the above photo are, left to right: Major Donald A. Stewart, commanding officer, Capt. Arthur E. Erickson, public information officer; Capt. Joseph D'Aldario, overall public safety officer; and First Lt. Ralph G. Darrow, public safety officer in charge of the police department. —Torrance Press photo.

No Cut in School Tax Rate This Year

Hopes for any cut in the school tax rate this year were tossed out the window by the Board of Education of Torrance Unified School District Tuesday night.

The rate will remain at \$2.8887 per \$100 assessed valuation, it was said.

Previously, predictions had been expressed that the rate could be cut 20 cents per \$100. These hopes were exploded somewhat by the fact that the assessed valuation of Torrance did not increase this year as much as was predicted.

The Board adopted a preliminary budget calling for a total of \$1,690,740 for the current fiscal year. This includes \$125,000 reserve funds required by law.

The actual operating budget is \$1,526,740 against \$1,197,720 for the year 1950-51, but the increase is made necessary by the new schools which will be in operation during the coming school term.

They include Greenwood, El Nido, Crenshaw, Riviera and Madrona schools, although Greenwood is the only one which is likely to be ready by September. Bids were rejected on El Nido-Crenshaw and Madrona-Riviera schools due to lack of qualified bidders, and they will be readvertised.

The Board expects to finance the budget this year as follows: District ad valorem taxes, \$899,920.

Primary state aid, \$358,564, based on average daily attendance.

Secondary state aid, \$103,040, also based on average daily attendance.

Other state aid, \$26,000. Miscellaneous, \$5850. Public hearings will be held August 1.

Warren Signs \$750,000 Water Bill

So far as Southern California's ground water supply is concerned, Governor Warren's signature on the \$750,000 sea water invasion bill on Saturday, July 14, 1951, topped all action taken by the 1951, according to a statement by Ben Haggart, president of the West Basin Water Association.

The appropriation provides the wherewithal to finance the cost of injection and observation wells and other facilities to halt the underground invasion by sea water into the West Basin—a major source of vitally needed water for the Torrance area.

At present approximately 87,000 meters are measuring West Basin water serving a population of 250,000 persons in Southern California.

"Running interference for this much needed legislation," according to Haggart, "was Attorney Charles R. Stevens representing four large oil companies in this area and premier legislative advocate who has been studying the problem for the past several years."

Stevens, with his extensive

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Milk Shortage Threatened

"California's consuming public soon may not have an adequate supply of milk" was indicated today by W. E. Woodburn of the California Dairy Industry Advisory Board.

Woodburn pointed out 7 facts: 1. Production of milk in the last 12 months has increased only 4 per cent to 5 per cent. Sales of fluid milk and dairy products have increased 7 percent to 8 per cent.

2. The cost of what a cow eats per day has increased since last January, 24 percent in

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MILITARY TAKES OVER TORRANCE

Forty men of the 424th Military Government Company, Organized Reserve Corps, stationed for a two-week summer training period at Fort MacArthur, "occupied" Torrance for the day Tuesday just as they would any conquered foreign city.

After a flag-raising ceremony at the city hall, a security check was made of each Torrance city official before allowing them to remain in their official capacity.

Chief of Police John Stroth was "thrown" in his own jail by the military when they took over his jailhouse, and City Manager George W. Stevens "relinquished" his office to Major Donald A. Stewart, commanding officer of the forces here. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett also felt the "occupation" in his office.

Other city officials were "screened," their offices occupied for the day in the exercise which was to give the troops training in the actual military government.

Headquarters were in the Civic Auditorium, but the "occupancy" was extended to the fire department and the city court, where Chief Jake Benner and Judge Otto Willett were found willing "subjects" to military rule.

As it was pointed out by Col. John B. Shepard, in his talk to the Torrance Lions Club, host to a dozen military officers and city officials on Tuesday, the military government forces allow wherever possible the reigning city officials to stay in office under military supervision.

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Hundreds Seek Small Rentals

Yes, it's hard to believe, but there are hundreds of couples, young and old seeking one bedroom homes, according to Mrs. George Osborne, 1745 Martina Ave., Torrance.

Mrs. Osborne placed a 60c classified ad in the Torrance Press rental section, Thursday morning calls started coming, and continued throughout that day, Friday and Saturday. "I must have had well over a hundred calls over the weekend," said Mrs. Osborne.

Here is the 60c classified which brought so many calls:

50—RENTALS
1 BEDROOM furnished home with garage. Inquire 1745 Martina, Torrance.

Man Crushed Between Autos

Pantaleon Valbuena, 47, of 1851 W. 182nd street, had both legs broken when he was crushed between two colliding autos on Western avenue, near 178th street, Monday, July 16, according to the California Highway Patrol. He was rushed to Harbor General Hospital by ambulance.

The report said that the victim

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WEEKEND GUESTS . . . Swayne Johnson (center, holding baseball bats), former Torrance police sergeant, is shown with members of the U. S. S. Dixie baseball team he brought home with him last weekend to play the Torrance Bluebirds. The sailors were housed in the Moose hall on Carson street and were guests of the Torrance Moose lodge. They are, top row, left to right: R. A. Williams, SN; L. B. Ely, LTJG; J. E. Cook, YN1; and A. J. Dawdle, TMC; bottom row, left to right: C. E. Dugan, FN; P. H. Rush, FN; A. M. Rove, SN; D. E. Moller, SN; M. M. McComb, MMI; and J. C. Davis, ETSN. —Torrance Press photo.